

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 FEAE-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07

NSC-05 RSC-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 ARAE-00 /089 W
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P 241641Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9654

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0551

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, AR

SUBJ: US TRADE ACT

REF: BA 0521

1. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, THE TRADE ACT HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN THE ARGENTINE PRESS. WHILE RELATIVELY MILD COMPARED TO CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES, PRESS REACTION HERE HAS TENDED TO DISTORT THE PURPOSES OF THE ACT, IGNORE ITS POSITIVE ASPECTS, AND CREATE A SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE IMAGE OF THE US. OFFICIAL ATTITUDES HAVE BEEN MORE MODERATE, EVEN UNDERSTANDING; GOA OFFICIALS HAVE BY AND LARGE ATTEMPTED TO AVOID TAKING A POSITION WHICH WOULD ADD FUEL TO THE FIRES STARTED BY THEIR VENEZUELAN AND ECUADOREAN COLLEAGUES WHILE MAINTAINING A FACADE OF LA SOLIDARITY.

2. PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS ISSUE CONTINUES TO BE QUITE INTENSE AND UNINFORMED, EVEN THOUGH USIS HAS DISSEMINATED WIRELESS FILE MATERIALS. DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE SUSPECT LOCAL REACTION IS MORE MODERATE THAN IN MANY OTHER LA COUNTRIES, EMBASSY FEELS IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO SUPPLY LOCAL MEDIA WITH FACTUAL
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INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACT TO ENABLE THEM TO ANALYZE IT

WITH THE BENEFIT OF MORE COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE OF ITS CONTENTS. UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY EMBASSY HAS BEEN HANDICAPPED (AS WE ALL HAVE BEEN) BY NOT HAVING TEXT OF ACT AVAILABLE (WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SECURE AN UPDATED COPY FROM THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE FINAL VERSION OF THE BILL --99 PAGES LONG; WE ALSO HAVE ON HAND A CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENT ENTITLED "TRADE ACT OF 1974, SUMMARY OF THE PROVISIONS OF HR-10710" PREPARED BY THE STAFFS OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, DATED DEC 30, 1974). EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPTS GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PROCEED IN HANDLING THIS ISSUE.

3. A HIGH LEVEL TEAM OF EXPERTS FROM WASHINGTON WHO COULD PUT TRA IN PERSPECTIVE FOR BOTH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC WOULD BE, WE BELIEVE, THE BEST COURSE. IF THIS CANNOT BE DONE EMBASSY SUGGESTS FOLLOWING COURSES OF ACTION WHICH WE COULD UNDERTAKE LOCALLY: A) A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR THE "ECONOMIC" MEDIA AT WHICH WE WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE THE TEXT OF THE ACT AND STRESS ITS POSITIVE EFFECTS IN ENABLING THE US TO PARTICIPATE IN MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND GRANT GENERALIZED PREFERENCES TO MOST NATIONS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD; B) A CONTROLLED, EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW ON THE SUBJECT WITH ONE OF THE ARGENTINE ECONOMIC JOURNALS; AND/OR C) DELIVERY OF COPIES OF THE SUMMARY REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 ABOVE TO SELECTED MEDIA ACCOMPANIED BY PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THEIR EDITORS. (IN THIS CONNECTION IS THERE ANY INTENTION TO TRANSLATE THE SUMMARY INTO SPANISH, A STEP WHICH WE FEEL WOULD BE OF BENEFIT TO ALL ARA POSTS?)

4. IN CARRYING OUT ANY OR ALL OF THESE COURSES OF ACTION IT WOULD BE VITALLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN ASSESSMENT OF HOW ARGENTINE WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 5 OF THE ACT, ESPECIALLY THE APPROXIMATE VALUE OF ARGENTINE EXPORTS WHICH WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PREFERENCES AND THE TRADE VALUE OF THE PREFERENCES TO ARGENTINA.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS AND ADVICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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Message Attributes

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